UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/826,188	04/04/2001	Koji Ashizaki	450100-03124	2843

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EXAMINER
CASIANO, ANGEL L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2182	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).·
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>01 October 2004</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-33</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-33</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   The present Office action is in response to Amendment dated 01 October 2004.

2.   Claims 1-33 are pending in the application.

Priority

3.   Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

4.   Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Accordingly, priority date is set as 05 April 2000.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

5.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01 October 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7.   Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isoda [US 6,249,835 B1] in view of Hisada [US 2001/0048531 A1].

Regarding claim 1, Isoda teaches a data converter (see col. 1, lines 66-67; col. 2, lines 1, 8). The converter found in the cited prior art converts print data (see col. 2, lines 10-13) transmitted from a printing control unit to a printing unit via a serial bus (see col. 3, lines 48-50; Fig. 3). Isoda incorporates, as part of the disclosure, judging means (see "discrimination information", col. 2, line 5) for detecting print data information included in a command (see Fig. 9). Isoda teaches print data information indicating and "judging" the type of print data transmitted from the control unit (see col. 4, lines 13-15, 28-32; col. 18, lines 52-56). Isoda teaches conversion control means (see col. 2, line 7; col. 9, lines 57-60). The data is converted into a type supported by the printing unit (see col. 4, lines 28-30; col. 5, lines 16-17; col. 6, lines 66-67; col. 7, lines 1-2; col. 8, lines 48-53) and outputted to the printing unit (see col. 4, line 31). Isoda however does not explicitly mention (i) judging the "image type of the print data", as part of the data converter disclosed or (ii) "receiving means for receiving moving picture data representative of a plurality of sequential images and for selecting a desired image therefrom". Hisada teaches a printing system (see Abstract) having a data converter. In addition, Hisada explicitly discloses *judging* the *image type* (see "field flag") of the print data transmitted from a control unit (see Abstract; Figure 3). The print data, which is then supported by the print unit, is outputted. Regarding the

second aspect of the claim, Hisada teaches receiving moving picture (video) data and selecting images (see Page 5, paragraph 58) from the data. At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the cited disclosures, in order to prevent errors in the printing process, by eliminating the need for a user to perform operations (see Hisada's Abstract).

As per claim 2, Isoda teaches a serial bus conforming to the IEEE 1394 standard (see Figs. 3, 6-8).

As per claim 3, the disclosure by Isoda teaches judging the type of page-description language of the print data (see "PDL", col. 4, lines 14, 29; col. 5, lines 28-30). Isoda also converts the print data transmitted from the printing control unit to a type of page-description language supported by the printing unit (see col. 4, lines 28-31).

As for claim 4, the data converter found in the cited reference judges whether the print data transmitted from the print control unit is video data (see "image data", col. 5, lines 29-30) or data described in a page-description language (see "PDL", col. 5, line 28). Although Isoda teaches video and PDL data, it does not explicitly disclose outputting the video data as it is. It teaches instead, converting the print data in page-description language ("PDL") into a type supported by the printing unit (see col. 4, lines 28-31). It does teach transmitting image data to the printing unit (see col. 4, line 14; col. 9, lines 57-60). In addition, Isoda teaches the use of a serial bus capable of supporting real time data transmission of a large amount of vide and audio data (see

col. 14, lines 1-13). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to output the video data to the printing unit as it is, if the data would have been supported by the interface and printer type (see col. 4, lines 30-31).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of references teaches a *data converter* for converting print data transmitted from a printing control unit to a print unit via a serial bus (see Rejection for Claim 1). Therefore, the combination of prior art also teaches the *data converting method* directed to the data converter disclosed in claim 1. The present claim is therefore rejected under the same rationale.

As per claim 6, Isoda teaches a serial bus conforming to the IEEE 1394 standard (see Figs. 3, 6-8).

As per claim 7, the disclosure by Isoda teaches judging the type of page-description language of the print data (see "PDL", col. 4, lines 14, 29; col. 5, lines 28-30). Isoda also converts the print data transmitted from the printing control unit to a type of page-description language supported by the printing unit (see col. 4, lines 28-31).

As per claim 8, the data converting method found in the cited reference judges whether the print data transmitted from the print control unit is video data (see "image data", col. 5, lines 29-30) or data described in a page-description language (see "PDL", col. 5, line 28). Although Isoda teaches video and PDL data, it does not explicitly disclose outputting the video data as it is. It

teaches instead, the step of converting the print data in page-description language ("PDL") into a type supported by the printing unit (see col. 4, lines 28-31). It also teaches transmitting image data to the printing unit (see col. 4, line 14; col. 9, lines 57-60). In addition, Isoda teaches the use of a serial bus capable of supporting real time data transmission of a large amount of vide and audio data (see col. 14, lines 1-13). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to output the video data to the printing unit as it is, if the data would have been supported by the interface and printer type (see col. 4, lines 30-31).

Regarding claim 9, the combination of references, as presented in previous paragraphs, teaches a *data converter* for converting print data transmitted from a printing control unit to a print unit via a serial bus (see Rejection for Claim 1). Therefore, the cited combination also teaches the print unit (printer) directed to output the data converted in claim 1. The present claim is rejected under the same rationale.

As for claim 10, Isoda teaches a serial bus conforming to the IEEE 1394 standard (see Figs. 3, 6-8).

As for claim 11, the disclosure by Isoda teaches judging means for the type of page-description language of the print data (see "PDL", col. 4, lines 14, 29; col. 5, lines 28-30).

As for claim 12, Isoda judges whether the print data transmitted from the print control unit is video data (see "image data", col. 5, lines 29-30) or data described in a page-description

language (see "PDL", col. 5, line 28). Although Isoda teaches video and PDL data, it does not

explicitly disclose outputting the video data as it is. It teaches instead, converting the print data

in page-description language ("PDL") into a type supported by the printing unit (see col. 4, lines

28-31). It does teach transmitting image data to the printing unit (see col. 4, line 14; col. 9, lines

57-60). In addition, Isoda teaches the use of a serial bus capable of supporting real time data

transmission of a large amount of vide and audio data (see col. 14, lines 1-13). Therefore, one of

ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to output the video data to the printing unit as

it is, if the data would have been supported by the interface and printer type (see col. 4, lines 30-

31).

Regarding claim 13, the combination of references teaches a *data converter* for *converting print*

data transmitted from a printing control unit to a print unit via a serial bus (see Rejection for

Claim 1). Therefore, the combination of prior art also teaches the *printing method* directed to

print the data converted in claim 1. The present claim is rejected under the same rationale.

As per claim 14, Isoda teaches a serial bus conforming to the IEEE 1394 standard (see Figs. 3, 6-

8).

As per claim 15, the disclosure by Isoda teaches judging the type of page-description language of

the print data (see "PDL", col. 4, lines 14, 29; col. 5, lines 28-30). Isoda also converts the print

data transmitted from the printing control unit to a type of page-description language supported

by the printing unit (see col. 4, lines 28-31).

As for claim 16, the cited reference judges whether the print data transmitted from the print control unit is video data (see "image data", col. 5, lines 29-30) or data described in a page-description language (see "PDL", col. 5, line 28). Although Isoda teaches video and PDL data, it does not explicitly disclose outputting the video data as it is. It teaches instead, converting the print data in page-description language ("PDL") into a type supported by the printing unit (see col. 4, lines 28-31). It does teach transmitting image data to the printing unit (see col. 4, line 14; col. 9, lines 57-60). In addition, Isoda teaches the use of a serial bus capable of supporting real time data transmission of a large amount of vide and audio data (see col. 14, lines 1-13). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to output the video data to the printing unit as it is, if the data would have been supported by the interface and printer type (see col. 4, lines 30-31).

Regarding claim 17, the combination of prior art teaches a *data converter* for converting print data transmitted from a printing control unit to a print unit via a serial bus (see Rejection for Claim 1). Therefore, the cited combination also teaches the *printing control unit* directed to the data converter in claim 1. The present claim is rejected under the same rationale.

As per claim 18, Isoda teaches a serial bus conforming to the IEEE 1394 standard (see Figs. 3, 6-8).

As for claim 19, the disclosure by Isoda teaches identifying the type of page-description language of the print data (see "PDL", col. 4, lines 14, 29; col. 5, lines 28-30). Isoda also

identifies information corresponding to the manufacturer of the printing unit (inherent, see col. 8, line 50).

As per claim 20, the disclosure by Isoda teaches judging the type of page-description language of the print data (see "PDL", col. 4, lines 14, 29; col. 5, lines 28-30). Isoda also converts the print data transmitted from the printing control unit to a type of page-description language supported by the printing unit (see col. 4, lines 28-31).

As for claim 21, Isoda judges whether the print data transmitted from the print control unit to the printing unit is video data (see "image data", col. 5, lines 29-30) or data described in a page-description language (see "PDL", col. 5, line 28).

Regarding claim 22, the combination of prior art teaches a *data converter* for converting print data transmitted from a printing control unit to a print unit via a serial bus (see Rejection for Claim 1). Therefore, the combination of references also teaches the *printing controlling method* directed to the data converter in claim 1. The present claim is rejected under the same rationale.

As per claim 23, Isoda teaches a serial bus conforming to the IEEE 1394 standard (see Figs. 3, 6-8).

As per claim 24, Isoda teaches identifying the type of page-description language of the print data (see "PDL", col. 4, lines 14, 29; col. 5, lines 28-30). Isoda also identifies information corresponding to the manufacturer of the printing unit (inherent, see col. 8, line 50).

As for claim 25, Isoda teaches judging the type of page-description language of the print data (see "PDL", col. 4, lines 14, 29; col. 5, lines 28-30). Isoda also converts the print data transmitted from the printing control unit to a type of page-description language supported by the printing unit (see col. 4, lines 28-31).

In consideration of claim 26, Isoda judges whether the print data transmitted from the print control unit to the printing unit is video data (see "image data", col. 5, lines 29-30) or data described in a page-description language (see "PDL", col. 5, line 28).

Regarding claim 27, Isoda teaches a printing system (see Abstract). The cited system includes a printing control unit (see col. 2, lines 10-13). The cited unit includes means for generating data to be printed by a printing unit connected via a serial bus (see col. 3, lines 48-50; Fig. 3). Isoda discloses input/output means for outputting a control command (inherent, see col. 18, lines 52-53; Fig. 1-6). Isoda teaches print data information indicating and "judging" the type of print data transmitted from the control unit (see col. 4, lines 13-15, 28-32; col. 18, lines 52-56). The cited system exposes means for making a printing work by use of the printing data supplied from the printing control unit via the input/output means (see Figs. 1-3). Isoda teaches conversion control means (see col. 2, line 7; col. 9, lines 57-60). The data is converted into a type supported by the

printing means (see col. 4, lines 28-30; col. 5, lines 16-17; col. 6, lines 66-67; col. 7, lines 1-2; col. 8, lines 48-53) and outputted to the printing unit (see col. 4, line 31). Isoda however does not explicitly mention (i) judging the "image type of the print data", as part of the data converter disclosed or (ii) "receiving means for receiving moving picture data representative of a plurality of sequential images and for selecting a desired image therefrom". Hisada teaches a printing system (see Abstract) having a data converter. In addition, Hisada explicitly discloses *judging* the *image type* (see "field flag") of the print data transmitted from a control unit (see Abstract; Figure 3). The print data, which is then supported by the print unit, is outputted. Regarding the second aspect of the claim, Hisada teaches receiving moving picture (video) data and selecting images (see Page 5, paragraph 58) from the data. At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the cited disclosures, in order to prevent errors in the printing process, by eliminating the need for a user to perform operations (see Hisada's Abstract).

Regarding claim 28, this is oriented to a *printing method* in which data is transmitted via a serial bus from a printing control unit to a printing unit. The combination of prior art teaches a method for converting print data transmitted from a printing control unit to a print unit via a serial bus. Therefore, the cited combination also teaches the printing method directed to the data converter and printing system disclosed in previous claims. The present claim is rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 29, Isoda teaches a printing system (see Abstract). The system includes a

printing control unit (see col. 2, lines 10-13). The cited unit includes means for generating data

to be printed by a printing unit connected via a serial bus (see col. 3, lines 48-50; Fig. 3). Isoda

discloses input/output means for outputting a control command (inherent, see col. 18, lines 52-

53; Fig. 1-6). Isoda teaches print data information indicating and "judging" the type of print data

transmitted from the control unit (see col. 4, lines 13-15, 28-32; col. 18, lines 52-56). The cited

system exposes means for making a printing work by use of the printing data supplied from the

printing control unit via the input/output means (see Figs. 1-3). Isoda teaches conversion control

means (see col. 2, line 7; col. 9, lines 57-60). The data is converted into a type supported by the

printing means (see col. 4, lines 28-30; col. 5, lines 16-17; col. 6, lines 66-67; col. 7, lines 1-2;

col. 8, lines 48-53) and outputted to the printing unit (see col. 4, line 31). Isoda however does

not explicitly mention (i) judging the "image type of the print data", as part of the data converter

disclosed or (ii) "receiving means for receiving moving picture data representative of a plurality

of sequential images and for selecting a desired image therefrom". Hisada teaches a printing

system (see Abstract) having a data converter. In addition, Hisada explicitly discloses *judging*

the *image type* (see "field flag") of the print data transmitted from a control unit (see Abstract;

Figure 3). The print data, which is then supported by the print unit, is outputted. Regarding the

second aspect of the claim, Hisada teaches receiving moving picture (video) data and selecting

images (see Page 5, paragraph 58) from the data. At the time of the invention, one of ordinary

skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the cited disclosures, in order to prevent

errors in the printing process, by eliminating the need for a user to perform operations (see

Hisada's Abstract).

Regarding claim 30, this is directed to a *printing method* in which data is transmitted via a serial

bus from a printing control unit to a printing unit. Isoda in view of Hisada teaches a *method for*

converting print data transmitted from a printing control unit to a print unit via a serial bus (see

rejection for claim 1). Therefore, the combination of references also teaches the printing method

directed to the data converter and printing system disclosed in previous claims. The present

claim is rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 31, Isoda teaches a printing system (see Abstract). The system includes a

printing control unit (see col. 2, lines 10-13). The cited unit includes means for generating data

to be printed by a printing unit connected via a serial bus (see col. 3, lines 48-50; Fig. 3). Isoda

discloses input/output means for outputting a control command (inherent, see col. 18, lines 52-

53; Fig. 1-6). Isoda teaches print data information indicating and "judging" the type of print data

transmitted from the control unit (see col. 4, lines 13-15, 28-32; col. 18, lines 52-56). The cited

system exposes means for making a printing work by use of the printing data supplied from the

printing control unit via the input/output means (see Figs. 1-3). Isoda teaches conversion control

means and a data converting block (see col. 2, line 7; col. 9, lines 57-60). The data is converted

into a type supported by the printing means (see col. 4, lines 28-30; col. 5, lines 16-17; col. 6,

lines 66-67; col. 7, lines 1-2; col. 8, lines 48-53) and outputted to the printing unit (see col. 4,

line 31). Isoda however does not explicitly mention (i) judging the "image type of the print

data", as part of the data converter disclosed or (ii) "receiving means for receiving moving

picture data representative of a plurality of sequential images and for selecting a desired image

therefrom". Hisada teaches a printing system (see Abstract) having a data converter. In

addition, Hisada explicitly discloses *judging* the *image type* (see "field flag") of the print data

transmitted from a control unit (see Abstract; Figure 3). The print data, which is then supported

by the print unit, is outputted. Regarding the second aspect of the claim, Hisada teaches

receiving moving picture (video) data and selecting images (see Page 5, paragraph 58) from the

data. At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to

combine the cited disclosures, in order to prevent errors in the printing process, by eliminating

the need for a user to perform operations (see Hisada's Abstract).

Regarding claim 32, this is oriented to a *printing method* in which data is transmitted via a serial

bus from a printing control unit to a printing unit. The combination of prior art teaches a method

for converting print data transmitted from a printing control unit to a print unit via a serial bus.

Therefore, the combination also teaches the *printing method* directed to the *data converter* and

printing system disclosed in previous claims. The present claim is rejected under the same

rationale.

Regarding claim 33, Isoda teaches a data transmitting method in which data is transmitted from a

printing control unit via a serial bus (see Abstract; Figs 1-6). The cited method includes using a

printing control unit (see col. 2, lines 10-13). The cited method teaches generating data to be

printed by a printing unit connected via a serial bus (see col. 3, lines 48-50; Fig. 3). Isoda

discloses input/output means for outputting a control command (inherent, see col. 18, lines 52-

53; Fig. 1-6). Isoda teaches print data information indicating and "judging" the type of print data

transmitted from the control unit (see col. 4, lines 13-15, 28-32; col. 18, lines 52-56) and if the

data is supported by the printer (can or cannot be printed). The cited method includes the step of making a printing work by use of the printing data supplied from the printing control unit via the input/output means (see Figs. 1-3). Isoda teaches conversion control means (see col. 2, line 7; col. 9, lines 57-60). The original data is converted into a type supported by the printing means (see col. 4, lines 28-30; col. 5, lines 16-17; col. 6, lines 66-67; col. 7, lines 1-2; col. 8, lines 48-53) and outputted to the printing unit so it can be printed (see col. 4, line 31). Isoda however does not explicitly mention (i) judging the "image type of the print data", as part of the data converter disclosed or (ii) "receiving means for receiving moving picture data representative of a plurality of sequential images and for selecting a desired image therefrom". Hisada teaches a printing system (see Abstract) having a data converter. In addition, Hisada explicitly discloses *judging* the *image type* (see "field flag") of the print data transmitted from a control unit (see Abstract; Figure 3). The print data, which is then supported by the print unit, is outputted. Regarding the second aspect of the claim, Hisada teaches receiving moving picture (video) data and selecting images (see Page 5, paragraph 58) from the data. At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the cited disclosures, in order to prevent errors in the printing process, by eliminating the need for a user to perform operations (see Hisada's Abstract).

Response to Arguments

8.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

9.   In the remarks, applicants argued in substance that Isoda in combination with Yamaguchi et al. did not teach "moving picture data representative of a plurality of sequential images and for selecting a desired image therefrom" and "judging means for detecting print data specifying information included in a print data transmitting command supplied from the printing control unit for the desired image". Examiner agrees. However, upon further consideration, Examiner respectfully submits that Hisada teaches the limitations newly added to the claims. In particular, Hisada teaches determining the type of printing operation (A, B or C) as well as "conversion of video signals into image data". The reference "ensures that the input video signals will be converted into image data in an appropriate mode, and therefore enables picture printing with good quality" (see Page 5, paragraph 58). Therefore, the reference discloses selecting an image from the video data, as claimed.

Conclusion

10.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Toyoda et al. [US 6,229,884 B1] teaches "the step S66 activates the format converter 5 so that the compression-resultant *image data* of the facsimile format and the compression-resultant *moving-picture data* are converted and integrated by the device 5 into corresponding image data of the e-mail format" (emphasis added).

- Sakamoto et al. [US 6,687,453 B1] teaches a video capture circuit for capturing at least one of video image data and video audio data to store captured data; and a selector for
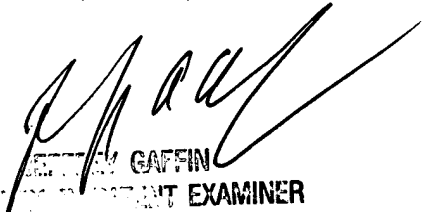
selecting one of the recorded data and the captured data, wherein the converter converts

selected data into reproduced data.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Angel L Casiano whose telephone number is 571-272-4142. The

examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alc
03 December 2004

GAFFIN
T EXAMINER
TER 2100